Husband's Name: **ABEL SOUTHARD**[1]

Born:	21 March 1768	Hempstead, Kings County, N.Y.[2]
Married:	circa 1792	New Haven, CT. (?)
Died:	1830/40	Monmouth County, NJ
Buried:		

Father: BENJAMIN SOUTHARD (5 June 1738 -)
Mother: JANE COLLUM (18 June 1744 -)

Wife's Name: **LYDIA**

Born:		
Died:	17 August 1816[3]	New Haven, CT. (?)
Buried:		

Father:
Mother:

Issue:	Born:	Where:
1) JOHN SOUTHARD	**11 OCTOBER 1794**	**NEW HAVEN, CT.**
2) PHOEBE SOUTHARD	5 August 1796	
3) MARY ANN SOUTHARD	19 July 1798	
4) CHARITY SOUTHARD	20 July 1800	
5) ABEL SOUTHARD, JUNIOR	July 1802	New Haven, CT.
6) JOSEPH SOUTHARD	3 March 1804	
7) ABNER SOUTHARD	1 July 1806	
8) CHARLOTTE SOUTHARD	12 June 1809	
9) LYDIA SOUTHARD	3 April 1811	
10) CALEB SOUTHARD	22 March 1814	
11) BENJAMIN SOUTHARD	3 August 1816	

Much of the information obtained so far is circumstantial and conjecture. Some claim that ABEL was married to SUSANNAH PARIS but this is not likely since the family Bible mentioned next is pretty clear on the name of his wife being LYDIA. An ABEL SOUTHARD signed the Long Island Declaration of 1776; however, since this ABEL was only 8 years old at the time, it is doubtful that it was he.

It appears that ABEL left Hempstead early and moved to New Haven. Whether his parents were with him is not known. In the book *Early Southards of New York and New Jersey*, cited above, RALPH POTTER errantly asserts that ABEL died on 17 August 1816. POTTER cites the Bible records of VIRGINIA (HOLLOWAY) LEE; those records clearly state that LYDIA SOUTHARD died on this date. Further disputing an 1816 death of ABEL are the following marriage records, none of which appear in the POTTER book. Shortly after LYDIA'S death, records show that ABEL and his children moved to New Hanover Township, Burlington County, N.J. It does not appear he owned property in Burlington or Monmouth County.

Three marriage records from Burlington County, N.J. can be attributed to this family:

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- License issued to ABEL SOUTHARD and LOUISA HOPKINS on 9 March 1817 in New Hanover Township, married 29 March 1817, recorded 27 May 1817;
- Marriage record for ABEL SOUTHARD, JR. and MARY HOPKINS on 27 May 1824 in New Hanover Township;
- Marriage record for BENJAMIN SOUTHARD and ABIGAIL COLEMAN, both of Monmouth County, married 10 January 1838 at Cookstown.

ABEL'S marriage to LOUISA HOPKINS was reported in the *Trenton Federalist* and the *True American* newspapers.[4] From the *Trenton Federalist*:

> *MARRIED – On Saturday evening the 29th ult[imate] by JOHN EMLEY, Esq. MR. ABEL SOUTHARD to Mrs. LOUISA HOPKINS, both of the township of New Hanover, Burlington County.*

The Burlington County recording states:

> *Personally appeared before me the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County of Burlington, on the 29th day of March 1817 Abel Southard and Louisa Hopkins both of the Township of New Hanover, Burlington County. I then did pronounce husband and wife agreeable to the laws of the State.*
>
> *Jno Emley*
> *Recorded May 27, 1817*
> *Jm Huainech*

Likewise, in Monmouth County Courthouse records appear several marriages that may be from this family:[5]

- License issued to MARY SOUTHARD and WILLIAM SOPER, both of Stafford Township, at Good Luck, on 2 May 1822;
- License issued to PHEBE SOUTHARD and SAMUEL CHELOR on 17 August 1818;
- License issued to PHEBE SOUTHARD and JASPER GOLDEN, of Philadelphia, in July 1820.
- In 1826 there are two marriages with a groom named JOSEPH SOUTHARD, undoubtedly one is ABEL'S son. The first is with MARY ANN DAUGH on 29 January 1826 and second with LIDIA ANN HAYS on 31 December 1826.

The 1830 Federal Census returns have an *ABEL SUTHARD* in Dover Township.[6]

Females:	(1) 60-70 y.o.	(LOUISA)	
Males:	(1) 60-70 y.o.	(ABEL)	
	(2) 20-30 y.o.	(JOSEPH, ABNER)	
	(1) 15-20 y.o.	(CALEB)	
	(1) 10-15 y.o.	(BENJAMIN)	

ABEL SOUTHARD, SENIOR does not appear as head-of-household in the1840 census and it seems that he may have died in the previous decade. It is interesting to note that an ABEL SOUTHARD who died on 26 November 1833 was interred in a cemetery in Hempstead, Long Island. This Cemetery has since been covered and is now Denton Green Park.[7] Preliminary research indicates that this is not the same ABEL.

To summarize: ABEL SOUTHARD, SENIOR moves his family to New Hanover Township in Burlington County shortly after his wife dies in New Haven in August 1816. He marries a second

time there in 1817 and appears to relocate to Dover Township in Monmouth County by 1830. ABEL dies in the 1830s, probably in Dover Township but this is not certain. No property records have been found bearing his name in Monmouth County. His widow LOUISA moves in with her step-son ABEL SOUTHARD, JUNIOR who may have married her daughter MARY.

While it seems that all of ABEL and LYDIA'S children were born in New Haven, this has not been thoroughly researched. In fact, the entire time supposedly spent in New Haven needs to be researched as supporting evidence appears limited to statements of some of the children who state they were born in New Haven.

Issue:

PHOEBE, CHARITY, JOSEPH, ABNER, CHARLOTTE and CALEB: no more information.

1) **JOHN SOUTHARD**: married **PHEBE MALSBURY**. Their story is continued in a separate chapter.

3) MARYANN SOUTHARD: Her father's tenuous connection to Dover Township may be relevant. A MARY ANN SOUTHARD of New Hanover Township was married to ANDREW LAYTON of Dover Township by a Justice of the Peace in Monmouth County on 15 March 1834.[8] On 4 April 1847 JOHN SOUTHARD, *son of MARY LAYTON, late SOUTHARD* bought 7.97 acres of woodland for $310.83 from GILBERT and ELIZABETH LAWRIE with over three-quarters of a mile frontage on the north side of the road between Cookstown and New Egypt (CR 528 spur).[9] If this connection is correct, MARYANN either had JOHN out of wedlock or while she was married to a man with the surname SOUTHARD.

5) ABEL SOUTHARD, JUNIOR: married MARY HOPKINS 27 May 1824. A notice of the marriage of ABEL SOUTHARD, JUNIOR to MARY HOPKINS appears in the *Trenton Federalist* reporting such specifics as they were married on the 27th of May by JOHN EMLEY, ESQUIRE, as was his father, *at Jacobs Town*.[10] Federal Census Returns for Monmouth County, New Jersey have entries that correlate well with the known information about ABEL SOUTHARD, JUNIOR. The names in parenthesis are my "best guess" at their identity:

1830: ABEL SOUTHARD, Freehold Township:[11]

Females:	(1) 30-40 y.o.	(MARY)	Males:	(1) 20-30 y.o.	(ABEL, JUNIOR)
	(1) 5-10 y.o.			(1) 15-20 y.o.	
				(1) 5-10 y.o.	(CHARLES)
				(2) under 5 y.o.	(SAM, GEORGE)

Presumably the other daughters had either married or were living elsewhere and it is thought that the other two sons had married and moved. It would seem that ABEL SOUTHARD, SENIOR may have died in the 1830s and his widow LOUISA moved in with her step-son and his wife (who may have also been her daughter):

1840: ABEL SOUTHARD, Upper Freehold Township:[12]

Females:	(1) 60-70 y.o.	(LOUISA)	Males:	(1) 30-40 y.o.	(ABEL, JR.)
	(1) 30-40 y.o.	(MARY)		(1) 15-20 y.o.	(CHARLES)
	(2) 5-10 y.o.	(LYDIA, MARY)		(2) 5-10 y.o.	(SAM, GEORGE)
	(2) under 5 y.o.	(THEODOSIA, CAROLINE)			

The names in parenthesis are those of family members that fit the age group listed and are not part of the census information. A review of Monmouth County deeds reveals two transactions probably applicable to this family. On 8 April 1842 JOHN COLLIER of Upper Freehold Township sold a tract of 8.22 acres for $15.00 to ABEL SOUTHARD, also from Upper Freehold Township. Located near the *Head of Wood Swamp*, its boundaries included the *road leading from Head of Wood to Toms River by the line of the HANOVER land by which it runs….to SYKE'S land by which it runs….to a post in the first-named Tom's River Road*.[13] Wood Swamp is in the center of Plumsted Township with the *Head of Wood* on the eastern edge of the swamp about 2 miles south of New Egypt; this area has been a part of Fort Dix since 1916. This JOHN COLLIER sold three tracts to ABEL'S brother JOHN in the 1840s. A second indenture, dated 10 April 1847, details the purchase of 0.95 acres in *the Village of New Egypt* by ABEL SOUTHARD, of Plumsted Township, for $250.00. Sold by JOHN and MARY HODSON, of New Hanover Township, who inherited the house and land from JOHN'S Aunt, MARY RODGERS; it bordered Mill Pond and was situated between tracts owned by BARZILLA HORNER and the *WIDOW ALLEN*, as well as being on the road *from New Egypt to Williams Mills*.[14] ABEL died 4 November 1848 in New Egypt, Plumsted Township, in *Ocean Co;* odd to find since the County was created in 1850. The cause is listed as *suiside*. It also states he was born in New Hanover, Burlington County, the son of ABEL and LYDIA SOUTHARD. He was 46 years old, married and a blacksmith.[15] Letters of Administration were issued to THOMAS B. ANTRIM *of Monmouth County* for the estate of ABEL SOUTHARD on 8 November 1848.[16] Of note is the fact that the Letters of Administration were issued the same date of the latter of the two deeds above was recorded. This may reflect the custom of having several proceedings taken care of all on the same day, when one was in Freehold, the County seat. Other records pertaining to his estate include an inventory in book Q, page 335, and the estate proceedings, volume 18, page 144, block 10. Descendents include the surnames STEWARD, STRATTON, STOW, SLOCUM, EMLEY, BROWN and SMIRES. (Author has more information)

8) CHARLOTTE SOUTHARD: born12 June 1809; married THOMAS BIRD before 1830. He died 25 December 1883 and she died 26 July 1887 in Burlington County. Buried *Jacobstown Baptist Cemetery*. Six known children.[17]

9) LYDIA SOUTHARD: born 3 April 1811. She was once believed to have married SAMUEL STOCKTON around 1840. In fact, a *single, 69 year old* LYDIA SOUTHARD appears with the widowed SAMUEL STOCKTON in Cookstown in the 1880 and 1885 census returns; in the latter LYDIA R. and ELLA M. STOCKTON, both between 5 and 19 years of age, are living with them.[18]

11) BENJAMIN SOUTHARD: married ABIGAIL COLEMAN (both of Monmouth County) on 10 January 1838 at Cookstown. By 1850 BENJAMIN was a blacksmith with 5 children and the family had moved to Washington Township in Montgomery County, Ohio. In 1860 and 1870 they are still in Ohio but have moved to Union Township in Highland County, not too far from BENJAMIN'S niece LYDIA ANN CHALLENDER, daughter of his brother JOHN. ABIGAIL died 7 April 1888. BENJAMIN died 10 February 1896 in Highland County, Ohio and was buried in the *Dunn Chapel Cemetery* in Willettsville, Highland County, Ohio.[19]

Endnotes

[1] *vide* Potter, *op. cit.*, pp.115-116.

[2] Brick, Gertrude. "*Bible of Virginia (Holloway) Lee*," 1964; in the collection of Genealogical Society of NJ, New Brunswick, NJ. Copy in possession of author. This record gives birthdates of Abel's children and the death date of his wife Lydia.

[3] Brick, Gertrude See note 2

[4] *Trenton Federalist*, 14 April 1817, page 3, volume XVIII, number 916, viewed at the New Jersey State Library, Trenton; and *True American*, 21 April 1817, page 3, viewed at the New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

[5] Marriage Licenses, Monmouth County, Liber B, pp. 175 and 189, Freehold, NJ.

[6] 1830 U.S. Census; Monmouth County, NJ, Dover Township, p. 372.

[7] "*Once A Graveyard, Now A Public Park*," Yesteryears (N.Y.), William L. Huffman, Vol. 13, No. 52, Summer 1977, p. 222.

[8] "*NJ County Marriages, 1682-1956*," FamilySearch database images 004541795 > image 733 of 1003; NJ Archives, Trenton.

[9] Burlington County Deed Book S-4, pp 615-616; Recorded 16 August 1847

[10] *Trenton Federalist,* 7 June 1824, page 3, volume XXV, number 1319, viewed at the New Jersey State Library, Trenton.

[11] 1830 U.S. Census; Monmouth Co, NJ, Freehold Township, p. 328; and Burlington Co, NJ, New Hanover Township, p. 38.

[12] 1840 U.S. Census; Monmouth County, NJ, Upper Freehold Township, 30 October 1840, p. 212; LDS microfilm T5, roll 81.

[13] Monmouth County Deeds, volume E4, page 377, recorded 26 April 1842.

[14] Monmouth County Deeds, volume H5, page 99, recorded 20 November 1848.

[15] Return of Deaths, Monmouth County, Volume AA, page 247.

[16] Monmouth County Surrogate Court, Letters of Administration, volume B, page 165.

[17] Charlotte Southard, FamilySearch.org ID LR6Q-WV4.

[18] 1880 Federal Census, Burlington County, New Hanover Township, Cookstown, p. 478, Line 3; and NJ State Census, New Hanover Township, Burlington County, House number 312, family number 329, Nos. 47-48.

[19] Benjamin Southard, FamilySearch. org ID KD3B-4PD.